



Monitoring News

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October 2008

SDE updates

- Karen Seay has been assigned State Coordinator Homeless Education duties.
- Joe Burris has been hired as the Title IIA Coordinator (new position). He began working September 29, 2008.
- An additional Title IA Coordinator position is currently being advertised and the job description can be viewed at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/job_openings/.



Policy definition clarification

(USDOE memo to MMB 9.10.2008)

Merely because the Title I statute uses the word "policy" in the context of parent involvement does not determine whether a district's parent involvement "policy" must be reviewed by a local school board.

Whether such a "policy" must be reviewed is a local decision informed by the content of the document. Section 1118(a)(2) of Title I describes what a Title I parent involvement policy must include. If these are not the types of matters that a school



Monitoring Reviewers and SDE staff at Aug 20 & 21, 2008 Review Workshop

board would normally review, the mere fact that the statute uses the word "policy" should not be determinate. From our perspective, a district may attach whatever label it likes to the document describing parent involvement opportunities. It must be in writing, however, and must be agreed to by parents of participating children. Further, a district must be able to implement its "policies" through whatever review and clearance process the district requires.

Means of notifying parents of eligible students of school choice and SES via regular mail

(US DOE memo to MMB 9.10.2008)

An LEA may meet its responsibility to directly inform parents through regular mail or other means such as through e-mail or by sending a notice to parents home in a student's backpack. The LEAs should consider which method of direct communication will most effectively reach parents of eligible students and, in doing so, should take into account such factors as family mobility, student grade level, and access to the Internet. An LEA may choose to notify parents through multiple direct means, so as to further increase the likelihood of reaching parents.

The LEAs should bear in mind that it must be able to demonstrate that it has met the parent notification requirement. The LEA could show that it has met the requirement to notify parents by demonstrating a sufficient level of demand for SES, through the number of requests for services or the number of participating students.

Schedule of Reviews

- **October 20-21**
South Lemhi
Judy Adamson
- **October 22**
Rockland
Mont Hibbard
- **October 23-24**
American Falls
Mont Hibbard
- **October 23**
Victory Charter
Marcia Beckman
- **October 27**
Liberty Charter
Marcia Beckman

• *Italicized names are team leads.*

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 <u>Victory</u>	24	25
26	<u>South Lemhi</u>		<u>Rockland</u>	<u>American Falls</u>		
	27 <u>Liberty</u>	28	29	30	31	

Serving non-eligible students in a targeted assistance school

(Title IA Guidance, March 2008 Handbook)

According to 1115(e)(1), Title I students may be served simultaneously, and in the same educational setting, with non-eligible children who have similar educational needs. Further guidance states, that "Because of the instructional method, setting, or time of a particular Part A service, it is not always reasonable or desirable for a school to serve only children who have been selected to participate in a Part A program. This may be particularly true if a school is providing Part A services in the regular classroom. A school may provide, on an **incidental basis**, Part A services to children who have not been selected to participate in the Part A program. This would be allowable only if the Part A program –

- Is designed to meet the special educational needs of the children who are failing, or most at risk of failing to meet the State's challenging student performance standards

and is focused on those children; and

- The inclusion of non-Title I, part A children does not:
 - Decrease the amount, duration, or quality of Part A services for Part A children
 - Increase the cost or providing the services; or
 - Result in the exclusion of children who would otherwise receive Part A services."

Based on this information, districts will not be found to be out of compliance if a targeted assistance school is serving non-eligible students on an incidental basis.

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